

Creative Testing Solutions

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INTERPRETATION INFORMATION SHEET

Trypanosoma cruzi (T. cruzi) Serology

Anti-T. cruzi EIA: This enzyme-linked immunoassay (EIA) allows detection of antibody to *Trypanosoma cruzi*. *T. cruzi* is a parasitic infection endemic to regions in Latin America resulting in Chagas disease. It is recommended that repeatedly reactive samples be investigated by additional tests for antibody to *T. cruzi* before a specimen is considered positive, indicating *T. cruzi* infection.

T. cruzi Antibody RIPA (Radio-Immunoprecipitation Assay): This radio-labeled immunoprecipitation assay is a qualitative test for detection of antibody to *T. cruzi* and is intended to be used as an additional, more specific test for specimens found to be repeatedly reactive by screening procedures.

- A positive *T. cruzi* RIPA test result is indicative of an acute or chronic infection with *T. cruzi*.
- An indeterminate or negative *T. cruzi* RIPA test may be indicative of cross-reactivity with other similar parasitic infections. In these cases, additional testing is recommended.

Final interpretations of any serology assay must consider additional medical history. A negative serology test does not exclude the possibility of infection with *T. cruzi*.

Interpretation Table

T. cruzi EIA	T. cruzi RIPA	Most likely interpretation
Reactive	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>T. cruzi</i> antibody present, indicative of acute or chronic infection▪ Recommend referral to physician
Reactive	Indeterminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Possible <i>T. cruzi</i> infection▪ In absence of risk factors, may be false positive▪ Recommend referral to physician and follow-up due to inconclusive results
Reactive	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Possible nonspecific serologic reactivity▪ Cross-reactivity demonstrated with Leishmaniasis, malaria, schistosomiasis▪ Recommend referral to physician

REFERENCES:

- Ortho *T. cruzi* ELISA Test System product insert – November 2006.
- Quest Diagnostic Nichols Institute, Chantilly, VA; Laboratory Update, Volume 1 – January 2007